

London, and that it does not propose to abandon the teaching of the preliminary and intermediate subjects under these circumstances."

I desire to add that this decision must not be construed as adverse to the principle of the concentration of the preliminary and intermediate medical studies in the University, but solely as directed against the particular proposals for concentration indicated in the resolution.

Believe me, Sirs, yours faithfully,

June 11th, 1907.

HERBERT L. EASON, Dean.

A SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you kindly allow me to ask your correspondent, "H. N. R.," if he has read the report of the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board on the deterioration of public health? Has he also read the many articles, annotations, and letters which have appeared in your columns showing the inadequacy of hospital accommodation for venereal diseases throughout the whole of the United Kingdom? Consideration for your space induces me to ask him to send me his name and address; I can then send him additional information which he may find useful.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

FRED. W. LOWNDES.

40, Knight-street, Liverpool, June 11th, 1907.

THE HOSPITAL FUNDS AND THE EXCLUSION OF SCOTTISH DIPLOMATES FROM THE MAJORITY OF LONDON HOSPITALS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—On behalf of the council of the Association of Medical Diplomates of Scotland I beg to draw your attention to what we consider a grave injustice to those holding the diploma of the Scottish colleges. We refer to the clause in the laws of many medical charities of the metropolis making the possession of a London qualification an essential condition of election to a post on the honorary medical and surgical staffs. The effect is to make those posts a monopoly in the hands of certain London corporations. We submit that this practice inflicts a gratuitous injury upon the diplomates of the Scottish colleges who have obtained their legal qualifications after stringent examination. We submit that the exclusion of which we complain is contrary to the elementary grounds of justice and that its result, if not its intention, is to swell the ranks and to increase the revenues of certain London corporations at the expense of rival colleges, of Scottish diplomates, and, as we think, of the community in general. This arbitrary practice is, in our opinion, a relic of class privilege absolutely out of touch with the trend of modern thoughts and ideas and one calculated to close the door to many a fine career and in the long run to inflict injury upon the public by narrowing the field of competition. If the London qualification be of such supreme excellence why should their holders fear competition in the open market? Why resort to such a weapon as disqualification of all Scottish and Irish competitors? This exclusion of Scottish diplomates from the majority of London and provincial hospital appointments has been going on for many years. Our present object, however, is to draw attention to its revival in an insidious form and its imposition by a side issue upon two institutions that previously welcomed Scottish diplomates to their honorary staffs. We wish to show how the Hospital Sunday and King Edward's Funds have helped, doubtless unwittingly, to bring about that injustice.

There were lately three London orthopædic hospitals—the Royal, the City, and the National. The above-mentioned funds have for some years pressed the policy of amalgamation upon these hospitals by every means in their power. Of these three hospitals the Royal and the City admitted Scottish diplomates to their staffs, while the National excluded them. All three institutions are now amalgamated. It seems incredible that the funds should have permitted the new charter of the consolidated hospitals to exclude Scottish diplomates. Such, however, has been the case. In other words, the National Orthopædic Hospital has been enabled to force its exclusiveness upon the other two partners in the new institution. One holder of a Scottish qualification has been allowed to join the new staff, apparently in defiance of the charter. Another member of

the City Orthopædic has been denied any staff appointment in the new institution on the ground of not possessing a higher English qualification. That gentleman naturally protested against his exclusion. To investigate the facts of the case Sir Edmund Hay Currie was appointed arbitrator. His report stated that: (1) the charter could be amended; (2) that an exception should be made in favour of the gentleman concerned; and (3) that the conditions as to qualification would doubtless be retained in the new charter.

We submit, Sirs, that this charter in its present form is unjust, inasmuch as it excludes Scottish diplomates. We submit further that its amendment should be made to cover not only the specific hard case of a single Scottish diplomate but to throw open all staff appointments to all registered medical practitioners.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

CLAUDE ST. AUBYN-FARRER, President.

Chandos-street, W., May 31st, 1907.

THE ESTIMATION OF SUGAR.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—An annotation in THE LANCET of May 25th describes Swiatecki's method of ascertaining the amount of sugar in urine by the tint obtained by boiling with an alkali. This is, of course, a quantitative application of Moore's test. The method, in a much less elaborate form, which has been long available, deserves to be more widely known on account of its extreme facility. I worked it out with glucose many years ago and communicated it to Sir Lauder Brunton, who quoted it in his article on "Diabetes" in Reynolds's "System of Medicine," Vol. V., 1879, p. 396. It is also given by Dr. R. W. Leftwich in his "Index of Symptoms," third edition, and in Martindale's "Extra-Pharmacopœia." It enables an approximation to the amount of sugar to be obtained, without apparatus, in two minutes, and depends on the tint obtained on boiling for 30 seconds a mixture of equal parts of liq. potassæ and the urine. It is best observed by boiling the upper half of the mixture in a test-tube. If the mixture is still tinted the urine must (as you state) be decolourised, which is quickly done by filtering through paper on which a little animal charcoal has been sprinkled. The amount of sugar corresponds closely to the following simple tint scale. If lemon yellow, five grains per ounce; if pale sherry, ten grains; if dark sherry, 15 grains; if port wine colour, 20 grains per ounce and upwards. In the latter case it is necessary to dilute the urine with an equal part of water and repeat the process. I have often had a skilled analysis afterwards made and never found the amount differ much from the result obtained. I have tried to produce fixed colour standards, but the exactness obtainable seemed insufficient to compensate for the trouble. Not only is a precise comparison of tint difficult, but if the sugar is more than ten grains per ounce the colour is deepened unduly by too long boiling. No method of applying copper reduction to dilution can be made a practical speedy indication, but this quantitative use of Moore's test is a useful illustration of "the practical service of imperfect means."

It should not be forgotten that we owe the familiar "Moore's test" to a general practitioner of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, who died not many years ago.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

May 29th, 1907.

WILLIAM R. GOWERS.

THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL: A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your report of the proceedings of the General Medical Council of Thursday, May 30th, in THE LANCET of June 8th, p. 1593, I am made out to have said that there is a lack of opportunity of obtaining midwifery cases for London students. This is a complete misunderstanding, as I opposed the resolution of Sir C. Ball to reduce the number (20) of cases of labour to be attended by each student; and I have never heard that students in London have had, or now have, the least difficulty in obtaining this number of labours to attend. I said that there was, and would be for some time, difficulty in obtaining for the whole of the students in London regular daily attendance upon the indoor practice of